

In the Claims

The following complete listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

1. - 4. Cancelled

5. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a. a monitor for determining whether a provided radio frequency identification device is present, determining being in accordance with a radio frequency signal input to the monitor; and

b. a plurality of antenna controllers coupled to the monitor via a provided network, the network for conveying one or more commands and for conveying the radio frequency signal, an antenna controller of the plurality comprising:

(1) a coupler;

(2) a radio frequency amplifier; and

(3) a plurality of antenna interfaces, each for coupling a provided antenna to the coupler; wherein

c. in response to ~~a command~~ the one or more commands received from the monitor via the network and identified to the antenna controller by ~~a respective~~ an address of the one or more commands, the coupler couples at least one antenna interface identified by the one or more commands to the amplifier for ~~amplifying a providing an amplified signal from an antenna interface identified by the command, and the antenna controller provides the radio frequency signal to the monitor in accordance with the amplified signal.~~

6. (Currently amended) An antenna controller ~~having an address, the antenna controller~~ comprising:

a. a network interface for coupling the antenna controller to a provided monitor via a provided network, the monitor for determining whether a provided radio frequency identification device is present in accordance with a radio frequency signal input to the monitor, and the network for conveying one or more commands and for conveying the radio frequency signal;

b. a coupler;

- c. a radio frequency amplifier; and
- d. a plurality of antenna interfaces, each for coupling a provided antenna to the coupler; wherein
- e. in response to ~~a command~~ the one or more commands received ~~from the monitor~~ via the network interface and identified to the antenna controller by ~~a respective~~ an address of the one or more commands, the coupler couples at least one antenna interface identified by the one or more commands to the amplifier ~~for amplifying a signal from an antenna interface identified by the command~~, providing an amplified signal, and the antenna controller provides the radio frequency signal to the monitor in accordance with the amplified signal.

7. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

- a. a monitor for determining whether a provided radio frequency identification device is present, determining being in accordance with a radio frequency signal input to the monitor; and
- b. a plurality of antenna controllers coupled to the monitor via a provided network, the network for conveying one or more commands and for conveying the radio frequency signal, an antenna controller of the plurality comprising:
 - (1) a coupler;
 - (2) a radio frequency amplifier having an input;
 - (3) a plurality of antenna interfaces, each for coupling a provided antenna to the coupler;
 - (4) a memory; and
 - (5) a plurality of reactive elements ~~selectively coupled in accordance with contents of the memory to the input of the amplifier;~~ wherein
- c. in response to ~~at least one command~~ the one or more commands received from the monitor via ~~[[a]]~~ the network and identified to the antenna controller by ~~a respective~~ an address of the one or more commands, the coupler couples at least one antenna interface to the amplifier for providing an amplified signal, ~~and~~ the memory provides contents for selectively coupling at least one of the reactive elements to the ~~amplifier~~ input of the amplifier, and the antenna controller provides the radio frequency signal to the monitor in accordance with the amplified signal.

8. (Currently amended) An antenna controller ~~having an address, the antenna controller~~ comprising:

a. a network interface for coupling the antenna controller to a provided monitor via a provided network, the monitor for determining whether a provided radio frequency identification device is present in accordance with a radio frequency signal input to the monitor, and the network for conveying one or more commands and for conveying the radio frequency signal;

b. a coupler;

c. a radio frequency amplifier having an input; and

d. a plurality of antenna interfaces, each for coupling a provided antenna to the coupler; ~~wherein~~

e. a memory; and

f. a plurality of reactive elements ~~selectively coupled in accordance with contents of the memory to the input of the amplifier;~~ wherein

g. in response to ~~at least one command~~ the one or more commands received from the monitor via ~~[[a]] the network interface~~ and identified to the antenna controller by ~~a respective an~~ address of the one or more commands, the coupler couples at least one antenna interface to the amplifier for providing an amplified signal, and the memory provides contents for selectively coupling at least one of the reactive elements to the ~~amplifier~~ input of the amplifier, and the antenna controller provides the radio frequency signal to the monitor in accordance with the amplified signal.

9. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a. a monitor for determining whether a provided radio frequency identification device is present, determining being in accordance with a radio frequency signal input to the monitor; and

b. a plurality of antenna controllers coupled to the monitor via a provided network, the network for conveying one or more commands and for conveying the radio frequency signal, an antenna controller of the plurality comprising:

(1) a coupler;

(2) a radio frequency amplifier having an input;

(3) a plurality of antenna interfaces, each for coupling a provided antenna to the coupler;

(4) a memory; and

(5) a plurality of reactive elements ~~selectively coupled in accordance with contents of the memory to the input of the amplifier~~; wherein

c. ~~in response to at least one command~~ the one or more commands received from the monitor via ~~[[a]] the network and identified to the antenna controller by a respective an address of the one or more commands~~, the coupler couples at least one antenna interface to the amplifier for providing an amplified signal, the memory stores updated contents ~~provided~~ received via the ~~network interface, and network~~, the memory provides contents for selectively coupling at least one of the reactive elements to the ~~amplifier input~~ of the amplifier, and the antenna controller provides the radio frequency signal to the monitor in accordance with the amplified signal.

10. (Currently amended) An antenna controller ~~having an address, the antenna controller~~ comprising:

a. a network interface for coupling the antenna controller to a provided monitor via a provided network, the monitor for determining whether a provided radio frequency identification device is present in accordance with a radio frequency signal input to the monitor, and the network for conveying one or more commands and for conveying the radio frequency signal;

b. a coupler;

c. a radio frequency amplifier having an input; and

d. a plurality of antenna interfaces, each for coupling a provided antenna to the coupler; ~~wherein~~

e. a memory; and

f. a plurality of reactive elements ~~selectively coupled in accordance with contents of the memory to the input of the amplifier~~; wherein

g. in response to ~~at least one command~~ the one or more commands received from the monitor via ~~[[a]]~~ the network interface and identified to the antenna controller by ~~a respective an~~ address of the one or more commands, the coupler couples at least one antenna interface to the amplifier for providing an amplified signal, the memory stores updated contents ~~provided~~ received via the network interface, ~~and~~ the memory provides contents for selectively coupling at least one of the reactive elements to the ~~amplifier~~ input of the amplifier, and the antenna controller provides the radio frequency signal to the monitor in accordance with the amplified signal.

11. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a. a monitor for determining whether a provided radio frequency identification device is present, determining being in accordance with a radio frequency signal input to the monitor; and

b. a plurality of antenna controllers coupled to the monitor via a provided network, the network for conveying one or more commands and for conveying the radio frequency signal, an antenna controller of the plurality comprising:

(1) a coupler;

(2) a radio frequency ~~amplifier having an input;~~ amplifier;

(3) a plurality of antenna interfaces, each for coupling a provided antenna to the coupler; and

(4) a squelch circuit coupled to the coupler; wherein

c. in response to ~~at least one command~~ the one or more commands received from the monitor via the network and identified to the antenna controller by ~~a respective an~~ address of the one or more commands, the coupler couples at least one antenna interface to the squelch circuit and to the ~~amplifier input, and~~ amplifier for providing an amplified signal, the squelch circuit is operated to dissipate energy from the antenna interface prior to normal operation of the ~~amplifier~~ amplifier, and the antenna controller provides the radio frequency signal to the monitor in accordance with the amplified signal.

12. (Currently amended) An antenna controller ~~having an address, the antenna controller~~ comprising:

- a. a network interface for coupling the antenna controller to a provided monitor via a provided network, the monitor for determining whether a provided radio frequency identification device is present in accordance with a radio frequency signal input to the monitor, and the network for conveying one or more commands and for conveying the radio frequency signal;
- b. a coupler;
- c. a radio frequency ~~amplifier having an input;~~ amplifier;
- d. a plurality of antenna interfaces, each for coupling a provided antenna to the coupler; and
- e. a squelch circuit coupled to the coupler; wherein
- f. in response to ~~at least one command~~ the one or more commands received from the monitor via the network interface and identified to the antenna controller by ~~a respective an~~ an address of the one or more commands, the coupler couples at least one antenna interface to the squelch circuit and to the amplifier for providing an amplified signal, ~~and~~ the squelch circuit is operated to dissipate energy from the antenna interface prior to normal operation of the amplifier, and the antenna controller provides the radio frequency signal to the monitor in accordance with the amplified signal.

13. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

- a. a monitor for determining whether a provided radio frequency identification device is present, determining being in accordance with a radio frequency signal input to the monitor; and
- b. a plurality of antenna controllers coupled to the monitor via a provided network, ~~a first antenna controller of the plurality coupled to a second antenna controller of the plurality;~~ each the network for conveying one or more commands and for conveying the radio frequency signal, an antenna controller of the plurality comprising:
 - (1) a coupler;
 - (2) a radio frequency ~~amplifier having an input and an output;~~ amplifier;
 - (3) a plurality of first interfaces, each for coupling a provided antenna to the coupler;
 - (4) ~~an I/O~~ a second interface for receiving an input signal to the antenna controller ~~and for providing an output signal from the antenna controller;~~ and

(5) a difference circuit having first and second inputs ~~and an output driven by the difference circuit~~ for providing a difference signal as the algebraic difference of signals respectively from the first and second inputs; wherein

c. ~~in response to at least one command~~ the one or more commands received from the monitor via the network and identified to the first antenna controller by a ~~respective~~ an address of the one or more commands, the coupler couples at least one ~~antenna~~ first interface to the amplifier ~~input~~ for providing an amplified signal, the input signal of the I/O second interface is coupled to the first input of the difference circuit, the ~~output of the amplifier~~ amplified signal is coupled to the second input of the difference circuit, and ~~the output signal of the I/O interface is provided in accordance with the output of the difference circuit~~ the antenna controller provides the radio frequency signal to the monitor in accordance with the output of the difference circuit.

14. (Currently amended) An antenna controller ~~having an address, the antenna controller~~ comprising:

a. a network interface for coupling the antenna controller to a provided monitor via a provided network, the monitor for determining whether a provided radio frequency identification device is present in accordance with a radio frequency signal input to the monitor, and the network for conveying one or more commands and for conveying the radio frequency signal;

b. a coupler;

c. a radio frequency ~~amplifier having an input and an output;~~ amplifier;

d. a plurality of first interfaces, each for coupling a provided antenna to the coupler;

e. ~~an I/O~~ a second interface for receiving an input signal to the antenna controller ~~and for providing an output signal from the antenna controller;~~ and

f. a difference circuit having first and second inputs ~~and an output driven by the difference circuit~~ for providing a difference signal as the algebraic difference of signals respectively from the first and second inputs; wherein

g. ~~in response to at least one command~~ the one or more commands received from the monitor via the network interface and identified to the antenna controller by a ~~respective~~ an address of the at least one command, the coupler couples at least one ~~antenna~~ first interface to the amplifier ~~input~~ for providing an amplified signal, the input signal of the I/O second interface is coupled to the first input of the difference circuit, the ~~output of the amplifier~~ amplified signal is

coupled to the second input of the difference circuit, and ~~the output signal of the I/O interface is provided in accordance with the output of the difference circuit, the antenna controller provides the radio frequency signal to the monitor in accordance with the output of the difference circuit.~~

15. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a. a monitor for determining whether a provided radio frequency identification device is present, determining being in accordance with a radio frequency signal input to the monitor; and

b. a plurality of antenna controllers coupled to the monitor via a provided network, each antenna controller of the plurality providing an output signal to the monitor via a respective line, each the network for conveying one or more commands and for conveying the radio frequency signal, an antenna controller of the plurality comprising:

(1) a first and a second coupler;

(2) a first and a second radio frequency amplifier;

(3) a plurality of first interfaces, each for coupling a provided antenna to the first coupler; and

(4) ~~an output interface for providing the output signal from the antenna controller; and~~

(5) (4) ~~a difference circuit having first and second inputs and an output driven by the difference circuit for providing a difference signal as the algebraic difference of signals respectively from the first and second inputs; wherein~~

c. in response to ~~at least one command~~ the one or more commands received from the monitor via the network and identified to the antenna controller by ~~a respective~~ an address of the one or more commands, the first coupler couples at least one respective ~~antenna~~ first interface to each of the first and the second amplifiers for providing first and second amplified signals respectively, the second coupler couples ~~each amplifier output~~ the first and the second amplified signals to a respective input of the difference ~~circuit and couples the output of the difference circuit to the output interface~~ circuit, and the antenna controller provides the radio frequency signal to the monitor in accordance with the difference signal.

16. (Currently amended) An antenna controller ~~having an address, the antenna controller providing an output signal to the monitor via a line, the antenna controller~~ comprising:

a. a network interface for coupling the antenna controller to a provided monitor via a provided network, the monitor for determining whether a provided radio frequency identification device is present in accordance with a radio frequency signal input to the monitor, and the network for conveying one or more commands and for conveying the radio frequency signal;

b. a first and a second coupler;

c. a first and a second radio frequency amplifier;

d. a plurality of antenna interfaces, each for coupling a provided antenna to the coupler;

e. ~~an output interface for providing the output signal from the antenna controller;~~
and

f. e. ~~a difference circuit having first and second inputs and an output driven by the difference circuit~~ for providing a difference signal as the algebraic difference of signals respectively from the first and second inputs; wherein

g. f. ~~in response to at least one command~~ the one or more commands received from the monitor via the network interface and identified to the antenna controller by a ~~respective an~~ address of the one or more commands, the first coupler couples at least one respective ~~antenna~~ first interface to each of the first and the second amplifiers for providing first and second amplified signals respectively, the second coupler couples ~~each amplifier output~~ the first and the second amplified signals to a respective input of the difference ~~circuit~~ circuit and ~~couples the output of the difference circuit to the output interface circuit, and the antenna controller provides the radio frequency signal to the monitor in accordance with the difference signal.~~